

INTIMATIONS

NOW READY
THE
CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
FOR
CHINA, JAPAN, STRAITS, &c., &c.
1896.
With which is incorporated
THE CHINA DIRECTORY.
This is the
THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL ISSUE,
and will be found, as usual, to show an advance
on preceding years both in fulness and accuracy
of information.
The DIRECTORY covers the whole of the
ports and cities of the five seas, from Peking to
Vladivostok, in which European trade.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.



CHEMISTS BY APPOINTMENT.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1847.

MANUFACTURERS OF ABRATED

WATERS.

Our ABRATED WATER FACTORY is fitted
with the best English Machinery, embodying
the latest improvements in the trade.

The Purest Ingredients only are used, and
the utmost Care and Cleanliness exercised in
the Manufacture throughout.

The Water used is proved by repeated
Analyses to be Absolutely Pure.

For Coast Ports, Waters are packed and
sent on board ship at Hongkong prices, and
the full amount allowed for Packages and
Emplies when received in good order.

Counterfoil Order Books supplied on applica-
tion.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is
"DISPENSARY, HONGKONG."

All signed messages addressed thus will
receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Waters always
kept ready in Stock—

PURE ABRATED WATER.

SODA WATER.

LEMONADE.

POTASH WATER.

SALTZET WATER.

LITHIA WATER.

SARSAPARILLA WATER.

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GINGER ALE.

GINGERADE.

No Credit given for Bottles that look dirty
or greasy, or that appear to have been used for
any other purpose than that of containing
Abrated Waters, as such Bottles are never used
again by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 26th May, 1896.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our communications relating to the news columns
should be addressed to the Editor.
Correspondents must forward their names and address
with communications addressed to the Editor, not
for publication, but for the Editor's use.
All letters for publication should be written on one
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No communication except communications that have
already appeared in other papers will be inserted.

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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JULY 17th, 1896.

The meaning of the phrase "a consul-
tative voice in questions of an Imperial
character" in the petition of the ratepayers
of Hongkong praying for constitutional
reform seems to have been entirely mis-
apprehended. It must be admitted now that
the phrase was an unfortunate one, because
it may be taken to mean a good deal more
than what the petitioners really intended.
Lord Ripon in his despatch says it "seems
to point to some kind of Imperial Federa-
tion" and that "the subject raised is so
wide and so vague that it would be useless
to attempt to discuss it." "The question
of the general remodelling of the colonial
system of Great Britain," his Lordship
goes on to say, "if it would pro-
bably amount to no less, as it would
necessarily become part of any scheme for
a Federation of the Empire, is a most im-
portant question; but one of too wide
and far-reaching a scope to be dealt with
"in regard to a single case alone." If a
scheme of Imperial Federation were adopted
like Hongkong, which are really only
trading centres or coaling stations, and
where the bulk of the community is non-
British, would have a very small voice if
any accorded them in the deliberations of
the Imperial Council, and would have to
submit probably to some official of the Colo-
nial Office to guard their interests. Nothing,
we are sure, could have been further
from the minds of the signatories to the
petition than a request that they should
immediately be admitted to a share
in the direction of the general policy of
the Empire. What was intended, as we un-
derstand, was that with regard to Imperial
affairs that have to be dealt with locally
the petitioners did not claim that they should
be allowed to exercise through their repre-
sentatives the same full control that they
claimed a right to exercise over purely local
affairs, but that they would be satisfied with a
merely consultative voice. As a concrete in-
stance, various Extradition Acts have been
passed by the Legislature, a quite recently
providing for the surrender of fugitive criminals
from Borneo. As a matter of form Acts of
this description have to pass through the
local Legislative Council, but they are
in reality dictated by the Imperial Gov-
ernment, and in matters of that kind
the ratepayers of Hongkong could not
claim more than a consultative
voice, and that only in order that they
might be able to point out any local
circumstances that might seem to differentiate
the case of Hongkong from that of other
places and call for some special adaptation of

the law. Another instance is that of the Mer-
chant Shipping Act. No one would be so
foolish as to claim that the Legislature of
Hongkong, whether with or without an
unofficial majority, should be at liberty to
throw over the principles on which the
merchant shipping law of the Empire rests
and adopt brand new principles of its own,
but it is right that the colony should have a
consultative voice in the matter in order
that our special local interests may be
adequately safeguarded. This, we take it, is
all that the clause in the petition meant,
but it has been taken to mean more, and its
introduction was therefore unfortunate.

What the petition really asked for was
local control over municipal affairs, to be
exercised through the Legislative Council.
We think, and have thought from the
outset, that a petition for the establishment
of a Municipal Council would have had
more chance of success, and that had
it been granted the concession would have
been of more practical utility than an
unofficial majority in the Legislative
Council. However, it is possible that the
end aimed at may ultimately be
achieved by securing a recognition of the
Legislative Council as endowed also with
municipal functions. Lord Ripon seems to
have taken rather liberal views on the subject,
and had his despatch been published at the
time it was received, in accordance with his
Lordship's request, further representations
might have been made to him which might
have resulted in better terms being ob-
tained for the colony than those which
have been granted by his successor. "With
regard to the institution of a Municipal
Council," Lord Ripon wrote, "I frankly
say that I should like to see one esta-
blished at Hongkong." He goes on,
however, to point out what he conceives
to be the difficulties in the way, one of
which is "that of separating municipal
"from colonial matters," but he thinks that
"the Sanitary Board might be developed
"into a satisfactory Municipal Council
"controlling all or some of the revenue
"which is now derived from the rates."

When the Sanitary Board was first estab-
lished as a popularly constituted body it
hailed it as the forerunner of a Municipal
Council, and that it will ultimately develop
into something of the kind, notwithstanding
the present cloud under which it labours,
we have no doubt. As long ago as 1847 a
Parliamentary Committee recognised that
Hongkong required municipal institutions
and with the lapse of time the requirement
has made itself more acutely felt. If,
however, the difficulty of separating muni-
cipal from colonial affairs is found to be as
great as it is officially represented to be,
we may have to make some sort of a com-
promise on the basis of allowing the
Legislative Council to perform also some
of the functions of a Municipal Council,
which might be accomplished in part, for
instance, by giving to that body the power
of making by-laws, rules, and regulations
which are now made by the Governor-in-
Executive Council, and by increasing the
control exercised by the Legislative Council
over the details of public works and finance.

Two unofficial members to be placed on the
Executive Council, and that is a concession
the value of which we estimate very highly,
but it must be remembered that the Ex-
ecutive Council is a secret body, and that the
members are solemnly bound not to disclose
what transpires at its deliberations. This
is necessary, having regard to the general
character of the work of the Executive
Council, but it places limits on the useful-
ness of the unofficial members in regard
to municipal matters, in which there ought
to be no secrecy. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN,
unfortunately, has not been able to give a
very close attention to the conditions "pre-
vailing in this colony, or he would have
made larger concessions than merely placing
two unofficial members on the Executive
Council, valuable as that concession is in
itself. If the right hon. gentleman had
pictured to himself Birmingham under
official rule, the Mayor a permanent official
to be styled his Excellency, the Town
Clerk, Borough Surveyor, Borough Treas-
urer, and the other heads of municipal
departments all dubbed "honourable" and
endowed with full control over all municipal
affairs, including expenditure and taxation,
with only a few humble citizens to sit at
the foot of the table as the representatives
of the ratepayers, always liable to be over-
ruled by the official majority—
If the hon. gentleman had placed a picture
of that kind before his mind and taken it
as accurately representing, as it would have
done, the actual state of affairs in Hong-
kong, we think he would not have been
satisfied with it, even as ameliorated by the
admission of two unofficials to the secret
conclaves of the officials.

There were three cases of plague in the city
yesterday.

Mr. F. Elliot, of the Equitable Life Assur-
ance Co., yesterday morning yesterday and will
be glad to give any information to inquirers.

The German mail steamer *Preussener* left
Shanghai on the 16th inst., at 6 a.m.,
and may be expected here on Monday, the 20th
inst., at daylight.

Several people were charged at the Police
Court yesterday with maintaining illegal cock-
fights. In some cases a fine of \$15 was imposed,
and in other cases \$10 was the limit.

Subject to audit the forthcoming dividend
of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank will be
\$25.50 per share, \$250,000 to be placed to the
Reserve Fund, and about \$300,000 carried for-
ward.

The Straits Settlements imports for the first
quarter of the present year amounted to
\$46,200,590 and the exports to \$38,203,549,
showing an increase of \$69,683 and \$9,575 re-
spectively on the corresponding quarter of last
year.

The Chinaman, who savagely attacked a
passenger on the *Albatross*, while on a voyage from
Singapore to Hongkong, was yesterday sent to
Gaol for six months with hard labour by Hon.
Commander Hastings.

The latest news regarding the steamer
Anchises is the bare announcement that she ran
aground near Saigon, but that no lives were
lost. We think that the ship has now left that
port for Pusan—*Singapore Free Press*.

By authority of the Secretary of the U.S.
Navy, the following vessels are announced by
Admiral McFar for the quarter ending
September 30th, 1896—Imperial Japanese
Yan, 50,536; Mexican Dollar, 50,540; Teal,
Shanghai, 50,735.

The *Shanghai Gazette* of the 8th June says:
"It was reported in Hongkong yesterday
that the Burma State Railway had been pro-
cessed by a company, the sum mentioned being
six millions sterling. The report is entirely
unfounded. Negotiations are proceeding
on the subject, as they have been for months
past, but they are not yet definitely concluded."

It is an odd comment on the agitation in
England against the opium trade, says the
Bangkok Gazette, that planters in the Southern
States of the American Union are turning their
thoughts to the cultivation of the poppy, and
have communicated with their Consuls in Japan,
proposing countries for the purpose of acquir-
ing an interesting report on the subject. This
information on the subject was given by the
Minister in Yokohama, which is published in the
latest issue of the Consular Reports by the
Department of State in Washington.

In his report for last year Mr. W. E. Crow,
Government Analyst, says:—In connection
with a charge of circulating counterfeit coins,
a number of 20-cent pieces similar to the
Canadian coin were forwarded for analysis
by the Captain Superintendent of Police. The
coins had a specific gravity of 9.850 and con-
tained 45.52 and 53.90 per cent of silver and
copper respectively. The specific gravity of a
genuine Canadian 20-cent piece was found to be
10.284. From information furnished by the
manager of the Canton mint it appears that
the 18 per cent of copper enters into the com-
position of the 20-cent tokens.

We read in the *Yokohama Specie* that the number
of Japanese residents in Japan having
become very numerous, the advisability of
establishing a Japanese Legation and Consulate
there has been urged upon the Tokyo Govern-
ment. The San Francisco Chronicle of the 12th
inst. says that the Foreign Office in Tokyo has
instigated to the revision of the Treaty be-
tween the two countries is desirable, and the
Japanese Government is now endeavouring to
bring about a change in the negotiations,
Tokyo has been chosen, and it is expected that
within a brief period, a plenipotentiary envoy
will come from Japan—*Japan News*.

The American mail brings news of the
death of Captain Lefavour, who was for many
years in command of one of the Hongkong
Coast Guard vessels. The report is that the
deceased was killed by a falling spar from the
masted vessel. Captain Lefavour left Hongkong
for a trip to America after a severe illness,
which he was treated in the Government Civil
Hospital. The San Francisco Chronicle of the 12th
June says—Captain G. B. Lefavour, a
former resident of this city, but of recent years
in command of a steamer plying between San
Francisco and Hongkong, died at the latter
place shortly before he reached Oahu.

Considerable commotion was created in the
Imperial Palace at Tokyo on the 1st inst.
though an official misapprehension. Certain
unofficial reports were received from the
Imperial Palace that the Emperor had been
attacked by a falling spar from the masted
vessel. The report was that the Emperor had
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LARGE STOCKS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION OF COAL
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BOOMS, with Board.
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Hongkong, 1st January, 1892.

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J. W. KEW & CO.,
STEAM WATER BOAT COMPANY
Hongkong, 8th October, 1895 [14]

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 Do. GOLD FOIL (dry).
 DRY Do. do. (extra dry).
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 Sole Agents
 For Hongkong, China, and Japan.

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& Co.
ARAMITA, Amer. ship, Soule--Standard
Oil Co.
CARTEIAN ISLES, Brit. ship, Niccl--Melchers
& Co.
CHELLEN, Brit. str., Wallace--Lantz, Wo-
goner & Co.

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Hongkong: 11th April, 1853

PUBLIC CAPITAL
 INSURANCE CO.
 PORTLAND, ME.
 S. J. M.

Alderley, British Str., 1,954, Nicholas, J.
Chinese

382, Watson, July 10
Cameron, July 4
Meyer, June 10
Milne, July 16
Ward, July 11
885, Asst. July 2
Hygon, July 13
Wallace, June 21
no father, July 15
Morris, July 14
Sealy, July 16
5, 804, Lee, July 7
Buyers, July 6

C. & M. Steamboat Co., for Canton
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Winters, July 16,
Hestergreen, May 27,
Lunt, July 16,
409, Bell, July 16,
Bathurst, July 16,
2, Roach, July 15,
Dick, Butterfield &
54, W. E. Clark,
Co. for Macao
Co., & M. Stearns
Edrichson, July 15,
Airth, July 14,
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419, Chinese, for
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30, Borg, July 16,
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 Taylor, June 30,
 Isaworthy, July 14,
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Kelkar, July 16.
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 Kristiansen, July 4.
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 Krican Ship, 2,217.
 Krich Oil Co.
 Kock, June 17.
 1,390, Shurtleff.
 Lamont, Mar. 1.
 Waldo, June 19.
 650, Small, April
 8. Soule, July 1.
 Walls, April 3.
 Winstor, June 12.

Savona, British ship, 1583. Denamore, Jun

25, Nicol, June
Rhode, April 26,
Rhode, June 25,
" 325, Gerrick,
1,350, Nichols.

JAMES SMITH, at
is, Hongkong.